

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

5 applying criteria for determining whether to link a receivable to a collateral agreement; and
 if a receivable meets the criteria, automatically forming a link between the receivable and
the collateral agreement.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria include an identity of a party to the collateral
agreement.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria include a type of receivable.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria are applied pursuant to the processing of a new or
existing receivable.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the criteria are applied pursuant to the processing of a new or
existing collateral agreement.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is formed between the receivable and a portion of the
20 collateral agreement.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is formed between a component of the receivable and
the collateral agreement.

25 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the link is formed between a component of the receivable and a
portion of the collateral agreement.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising manually forming a link between a receivable and a
collateral agreement.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the link is formed between the receivable and a portion of the collateral agreement.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the link is formed between a component of the receivable and
5 the collateral agreement.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the link is formed between a component of the receivable and a portion of the collateral agreement.

10 13. A machine-readable medium storing data structures comprising:
a collateral agreement; and
a link between the collateral agreement and a receivable secured by the collateral agreement, wherein the link is formed automatically in accordance with criteria of a global declaration of purpose associated with the collateral agreement.

15 14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the collateral agreement comprises a plurality of portions.

15 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein each of the portions has assigned thereto a
20 value that is a part of a total value of the collateral agreement.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein each of the portions has associated therewith distinct criteria for forming a link between a respective portion and a receivable secured by the collateral agreement.

25 17. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein each portion has a priority.

18. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the link is formed between the receivable and a portion of the collateral agreement.

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19. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the link is formed between a component of the receivable and the collateral agreement.

20. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the link is formed between a component
5 of the receivable and a portion of the collateral agreement.

21. A method comprising:

initiating a request for information concerning a collateral agreement or a receivable; and
based on the request, reading linkage information that maps collateral agreements to

10 respective receivables.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the collateral agreement comprises portions each having assigned thereto a value that is a part of a total value of the collateral agreement.

15 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the linkage information maps the portions to respective receivables.

24. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions to perform a process comprising:

initiating a request for information concerning a collateral agreement or a receivable; and

20 based on the request, reading linkage information that maps collateral agreements to respective receivables.

25 25. The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the collateral agreement comprises portions each having assigned thereto a value that is a part of a total value of the collateral agreement.

26. The machine-readable medium of claim 25, wherein the linkage information maps the portions to respective receivables.

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